

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 04134 281843Z

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ACTION OIC-04

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TAGS: OCON, AFIN

SUBJECT: BUDGET FOR SUMMER SESSION CCD

REF: STATE 139189

1. REFTEL, WHICH WAS RECEIVED ON LAST WORKING DAY PRIOR TO OPENING OF CCD SUMMER SESSION, CUT THE DELEGATION'S BUDGET BY OVER 50 PERCENT, ELEIMINATING THREE OUR OF FOUR CONTRACT EMPLOYEES. WE REGRET THAT NEITHER THE MISSION NOR SENIOR OFFICERS OF THE DELEGATION WERE CONSULTED ABOUT THESE CHANGES IN ADVANCE SINCE THEIR EFFECTS ARE QUITE SERIOUS AND SINCE A NUMBER OF MISUNDERSTANDINGS APPEAR TO EXIST.

2. REFTEL INDICATES THAT THE BUDGET WAS CUT BECAUSE THE US DELEGATION IS SMALLER IN NUMBER. IT IS OF COURSE SMALLER THAN IN PREVIOUS YEARS BUT EXACTLY THE SAME SIZE AS LAST SESSION WHEN DOUBLE THE AMOUNT OF FUNDS WERE PROVIDED. MORE IMPORTANT, HOWEVER, THE NEED FOR ONE OF THE CONTRACT PERSONNEL (LACOCK) WHO SERVES AS DOCUMENTS CLERK WOULD BE THE SAME WHAT- EVER THE SIZE OF THE DELEGATION. THE CONFERENCE IS AWASH IN DOCUMENTS, CHIEFLY VERBATIM RECORDS AND WORKING PAPERS. THE DOCUMENTS CLERK IS CONSTANTLY COLLECTING, MAILING OR POUCHING THESE MATERIALS TO AROUND 50 ADDRESSEES THAT HAVE REQUESTED THEM. THESE INCLUDE OTHER FOREIGN SERVICE POSTS, A
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 04134 281843Z

VARIETY OF USG AGENCIES IN WASHINGTON PLUS LOCAL MISSIONS

OF ALLIED GOVERNMENTS NOT REPRESENTED ON THE CCD. THE MISSION'S COMMUNICATIONS UNIT WHICH IS ALREADY SHORT ONE COMMUNICATOR, WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO DISSEMINATE THESE DOCUMENTS PROMPTLY WITH ITS PRESENT STAFF AND UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES THE DELEGATION WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY FIND IT NECESSARY TO TRANSMIT MANY OF THEIR TEXTS VERBATIM BY CABLE, FURTHER TAXING OUR VERY LIMITED SECRETARIAL STAFF.

3. THE DOCUMENTS CLERK ALSO REPRODUCES AN AVERAGE OF 85 COPIES OF EACH SPEECH MADE BY THE US REP TO THE CCD. FREQUENTLY THESE MUST BE DONE, OR MODIFIED, AT THE LAST MINUTE, POSING DEMANDS WHICH THE MISSION'S OWN GENERAL SERVICES SECTION COULD NOT EFFECTIVELY MEET. MOREOVER, LACOCK (WHO DEFINITELY WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR THIS ASSIGNMENT) VERY COMMONLY HAS TO RUN OFF THESE SPEECHES AT NIGHT IN ORDER TO MEET OUR DEADLINES. HE SANDWICHES THIS WORK IN AMONG HIS EVENING USIS DUTIES OF MONITORING THE WIRELESS FILE. WE HAVE NO DOUBT THAT WITHOUT HIM, AND WITHOUT THE UNIQUE FLEXIBILITY HE HIMSELF BRINGS TO THE JOB, WE WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO HAVE IMPORTANT US STATEMENTS AVAILABLE WHEN MOST NEEDED FOR DISSEMINATION AT THE CONFERENCE. WE URGE, THEREFORE, THAT THE FUNDS FOR HIS CONTRACT HIRING BE REINSTATED.

4. AS DEPT IS AWARE, DELEGATION WILL BE SERVED THIS SESSION, LIKE THE LAST, BY TWO AMERICAN SECRETARIES. ONE IS ASSIGNED TO AMBASSADOR MARTIN AND THE OTHER SERVES THE REMAINING FOUR OFFICERS OF THE DELEGATION. THIS IS A REDUCTION IN THE PROPORTION BETWEEN SECRETARIES AND OFFICERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS AND WE HAVE MANAGED THIS IN LARGE PART BECAUSE THE AMERICAN SECRETARIES NEED NOT TRY TO PERFORM THE FUNCTIONS OF THE DOCUMENTS CLERK IN ADDITION TO THEIR OWN WORK AND BECAUSE WE HAVE ALSO BEEN ABLE TO DRAW ON THE ASSISTANCE OF ANOTHER CONTRACT EMPLOYEE, MRS. ZBINDEN, WHO SERVES AS RECEPTIONIST-SECRETARY-INTERPRETER, BEING BILINGUAL IN FRENCH. NORMALLY, NONE OF THE AMERICAN SECRETARIES HAS BEEN FRENCH-SPEAKING. THIS SESSION WE WILL HAVE A BILINGUAL AMERICAN SECRETARY BUT THIS WOULD NOT COMPENSATE US SUFFICIENTLY FOR THE LOSS OF MRS. ZBINDEN'S SECRETARIAL SERVICES.

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 GENEVA 04134 281843Z

MOREOVER, AS ACDA/IR IS AWARE, THIS SESSION WILL BE A PARTICULARLY ACTIVE ONE AND THE BURDENS ON OUR TWO AMERICAN SECRETARIES WILL BE HEAVY ENOUGH WITHOUT THEIR HAVING TO DO MRS. ZBINDEN'S WORK AS WELL. WE CONSEQUENTLY URGE THAT HER CONTRACT POSITION BE REINSTATED.

5. THE THIRD POSITION WHICH DEPT HAS ELIMINATED, UNDER REFTEL'S TERMS, IS THAT OF A SECOND

DRIVER. THE MISSION HAS ADDRESSED THIS PROBLEM IN
AN EARLIER MESSAGE AND BELIEVES THAT THIS POSITION,
TOO, SHOULD BE AUTHORIZED. ABRAMS

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